

In June, the private sector created 83,000 jobs (including 9,000 in the manufacturing sector), lowering the unemployment rate nationwide to 9.5 percent. That was the sixth straight month of job growth in the private sector. June was also the 11th consecutive month that the manufacturing sector expanded. We also saw home prices increase across the country.

These numbers show how far we've come since last year, but they also point to how much work remains.

When President Obama entered the White House, the economy was losing an average of 750,000 jobs each month. The Recovery Act was the immediate patch to end job losses and put millions of Americans back to work, and the results have been remarkable. After 22 consecutive months of job losses, our economy has created nearly 600,000 this year.

The Recovery Act has been especially effective locally. Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties have seen around \$300 million in funds flow into our coffers through the Recovery Act, including construction projects, funds to backfill our school budgets, money to hire police and teachers, and stimulus funds that went directly into the pockets of families who depend on Social Security and VA benefits.

Drive through just about any community and you'll see signs of the Recovery Act and the jobs it has created. From a \$550,000 capital improvement program at the San Benito Health Foundation to \$4 million to hire nine police officers in Salinas, from the \$5 million Digital Media Center at the Salz Tannery in Santa Cruz to the \$1 million for the Monterey County Housing Resource Center, from the \$76 million in funding for our schools to \$43 million for transportation projects, the Recovery Act has worked, and it continues to work.

In just the second quarter of 2010, the Council on Economic Advisers reported that the Recovery Act created 357,000 in California alone.

Another very important piece of legislation, signed into law on March 18, is the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act. The Treasury Department recently reported that the

HIRE Act helped create jobs for an estimated 4.5 million new workers. The legislation instituted a payroll tax holiday for businesses that hire unemployed workers and offered tax cuts to spur new investment by small businesses to promote expansion.

But there are other programs that millions of Americans rely on and that need congressional support, including unemployment benefits and COBRA health insurance subsidies. Congress is working hard to create jobs, but I believe we must also assist struggling state and local governments to help them avoid laying off teachers, police officers and firefighters. The House passed a bill to do just that, but the legislation has languished in the Senate.

It's my hope that both parties and both chambers of Congress can come together and agree on the best way forward to promote jobs and protect the millions of Americans who remain jobless. It's our responsibility, and we need to step up and do our job.

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